

FOREST BUFFER AREA

821. Sri K. SUBRAMANYA GOWDA (Belthangady).—

Will the Minister for Agriculture and Forests be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of cases of old encroachment which have been rejected in Sullia, Puttur and Belthangady taluks on account of the objection by the Forest Department under new rules of the Forest which require 400 metres of land to be left as forest buffer area ;

(b) the action taken by the Government in respect of the several representations of individuals and M.L.As. in the matter of reducing the same to 100 metres.

Sri K. H. PATIL (Minister for Agriculture and Forests).—

(a) 804.

(b) Decision has already been taken to reduce the buffer area from 400 metres to 100 metres. Amendment to the relevant rules under scrutiny.

Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance

(i) *re. : disfiguring of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Statue at Chatri Chowk, Bidar District.*

Sri M. MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gurmitkal) :—I call the attention of the Hon. Chief Minister to the situation that has arisen due to disfiguring of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's statue at Chatri Chowk, Bidar District.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister) : I wish to make the following statement in reply to the Calling Attention.

It is reported that the statue of Dr. Ambedkar at Chatri Cross in Bidar town has been slightly damaged and its spectacles are missing. On 21st March 1973, at 21-10 hours. the Sub-Inspector of Police, Gandhiganj, recorded the statement of one Sri Ramachandra Chidri regarding this incident. A case u/s. 295 and 427 IPC. was registered in Cr. No. 34 of 73 of Gandhiganj Police Station and investigation was taken up.

It would appear that on 19th March, 1973, being a " Dhulandi Holi Day " some 40 to 50 Harijans took out a procession to Chatri and assembled before the statue of Dr. Ambedkar. One of the precessionists climbed over the Chatri to perform the Pooja. While the old garland was being removed, the spectacles of the Statue which were loosely fitted fell down. It is also reported that while breaking cocoanut and performing " Arati ", the cocoanut brushed against the nose of the statue and a small piece of the upper layer of the plaster on the nose also fell down. Thus the damage to the statue appears to have been caused unintentionally by one of the processionists while performing Pooja.

However, a section of the people appears to think that the damage is not accidental, but due to mischief. The Police have assured them that suitable action will be taken if any evidence is forthcoming to show that it is a case of mischief.

On 12th April 1973, a procession was taken out to the Dy. Commissioner's Office shouting slogans. A memorandum was presented to the Dy. Commissioner demanding action against the mischief mongers and also requesting to instal a new statue of Dr. Ambedkar. The processionists are said to have collected Rs. 92 as contribution towards the fund of Dr. Ambedkars statue. Government have decided to sanction funds for putting up a new statue of Dr. Ambedkar.

The situation remains peaceful.

(ii) Re : Assault on members of H.M.T. and B.E.L. Karmik Sanghas :—

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಶ್ರೀರಾಮುಲು :—(ಗಾಂಧಿನಗರ) ಸೇರಿದ ತಾರೀಖು 12-3-1973 ರಂದು ಎ. ಐ. ಟಿ.ಯು. ಸಿ. ಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಎಚ್. ಎಂ. ಟಿ. ಹಾಗೂ ಬಿ.ಇ.ಎಲ್. ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೈ ಮಾಡಿದರೆಂದು ಆಪಾದಿಸಲಾದ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರುತ್ತೇನೆ.

2-00 P.M.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister) :—I wish to make the following statement.